

What is claimed is:

1. In an information distribution system including provider equipment
5 and subscriber equipment, said provider equipment communicating to said
subscriber equipment information streams representing content requested
by said subscriber equipment, apparatus comprising:

a session manager, for interacting with/said subscriber equipment and maintaining a playlist, said playlist defining at least one content stream to be provided to said subscriber;

a server, for storing content streams, and

a server controller, for retrieving from said server content streams defined by said playlist, said content streams being provided to said subscriber;

15 said session manager modifying said playlist in response to playlist
modification commands received from said subscriber equipment.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

20 said modification commands comprise at least one of an add
command, a delete command, a skip forward command, a skip backwards
command, a fast forward command and a rewind command.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

said session manager, in response to said add command and said
25 delete command, respectively adding or deleting a subscriber-indicated
content stream from said playlist.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

said session manager, in response to said skip forward command and
30 said skip backwards command, causing said server controller to begin
providing to said subscriber equipment, respectively, a next content stream
or a previous content stream within said playlist.

[illegible]

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein each content stream defined by said playlist has associated with it a fast forward stream and a fast rewind stream, and wherein:

5 said session manager, in response to said fast forward command and said rewind command, causing said server controller to begin providing to said subscriber equipment, respectively, said fast forward stream or said fast rewind stream associated with a presently provided content stream

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

10 said server controller, in response to a remaining portion of a provided content stream being below a threshold level, communicating a termination notification to said session manager.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein:

15 said session manager, in response to said termination notification, communicating to said server controller a next content stream to be provided to said subscriber equipment.

add
AIL

045319-121099